

# STRAIGHT FROM THE STATEHOUSE

## **MCGREEVEY HONORS MEMORY OF NJ LEGISLATORS**

Governor McGreevey signed Executive Orders 34 and 35 last week ordering the American flag and the New Jersey State flag to be flown at half-staff to honor the memory and the passing of Assemblyman Tom Smith and Assemblyman Melvin Cottrell.

"It is a fitting tribute for all public buildings and State offices to fly their flags at half-staff in honor of these two distinguished public servants," said McGreevey.

## **BILL SIGNINGS**

Governor McGreevey signed into law last week bill S-1332 (A-1346). The legislation concerns offenses related to unlawful use of personal identifying information.

The bill provides for restitution to victims of such offenses. This would include costs incurred by the victims to clear their credit history or credit rating or costs linked to any civil or administrative proceeding arising as a result of the offense.

## **MCGREEVEY RECEIVES COMMISSION REPORT: A PROPOSAL TO IMPROVE NJ UNIVERSITIES**

Governor McGreevey received last week the report of the Commission of Health Science Education and Training which outlines a proposal to improve the State's public research university system.

The report is a product of more than seven months of work by the Commission and the management consulting firm of McKinsey & Company. It includes extensive data analysis, review of the country's best health science universities, and interviews with leaders, faculty and students at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Rutgers University and the New Jersey Institute of Technology.



Gov. McGreevey marches at the Columbus Day parade in New York.

"I look forward to reviewing the report, and if accepted, we'll create a Review and Implementation Task Force to develop a blueprint for change," said McGreevey.

## **MCGREEVEY UNVEILS BIO-TERRORISM RESPONSE PLAN**

Governor McGreevey and Health Commissioner Lacy released a summary of New Jersey's "Terrorism and Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan" last week.

McGreevey said the plan will aid State and local public health agencies, hospitals and other healthcare providers prepare to respond to acts of chemical, biological, nuclear, radiological or explosive/incendiary terrorism. The plan is based on recommendations by the state's Medical Emergency and Disas-

ter Prevention and Response Expert Panel (MEDPREP), which was formed in November 2001 under then Governor-elect McGreevey.

"The comprehensive plan sets forth a blueprint for New Jersey to improve its public health preparedness against the many forms of terrorism," said McGreevey. "It calls for strengthening the State's response capabilities, improving communications systems and increasing disease surveillance."